

**INTRO:** Jesus Christ did many miracles while here. So much so, that Scripture records:

### John 21

25 And there are **also many other things which Jesus did**, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

We are not missing Scripture, for all that is necessary has been inspired and preserved, but know this, we only read a small percentage of the things which Jesus did. Nothing has been hid, but its pretty safe to assume they follow in line or close proximity with that which we have read elsewhere in the Scriptures.

*(NOTE: Let is suffice your curiosity, that had the books BEEN written on every act the very Son of God did in only 33 years time, where would you or I have room (or life) to sit and read them? The revealed Scriptures are enough to live by a hundred years over as it is.)*

### LESSON:

The things that stand out the most in Scripture are those few times when things seem “inconsistent” with everything we’ve seen and known before. Our first reaction, often, is to affix the blame for inconsistency on inaccuracy. (*Surely OUR sound reasoning could not be flawed.*)

But upon closer examination, we often find the most beautiful treasures.

### Mark 8

22, And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

23, And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

24, And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

25, After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was **restored**, and saw every man clearly.

26, And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town.

Here is a blind man brought to Christ by his friends. **Therein appeared the faith of those that brought him.** If those who are spiritually blind, do not pray for themselves, it should be their friends and relations that should pray for them, if that Christ would be pleased to touch them.

The “Inconsistency” is in the cure, which was wrought gradually, and was NOT usual in our Lord's miracles.

RELEVANT OR NOT, IT MAY BE NOTED THAT THIS BLIND MAN LIKELY HAD SIGHT PRIOR TO HIS BLINDNESS. His vision is **RESTORED**, (*The word used elsewhere in ‘Wilt thou at this time Restore the Kindom of Israel?’ and other similar ‘senses’ of the word is used in the New Testament.*)

**QUOTE:** “Slighting Christ's favors is forfeiting them; and he will make those who do so know the worth of privileges by the want of them.” - Which is to say, its a tragedy of the uncontented to find out how much they miss what they had only once it is gone.

I believe what is going on in this account is beyond fascinating: *This blind man either lacked the KNOWLEDGE that Jesus Christ could heal him, or he HAD HEARD, but lacked the FAITH that Jesus Christ could heal him.*

Regardless... **This is NOT an “Almost” miracle...** as if Jesus, the One Who:

- Called forth Lazarus from the tomb on the first try
  - Dried up years of internal bleeding of a woman who simply touched the hem of His garment
  - Told a lame man to ‘take up his bed and walk.’
  - Healed a little girl via long-distance faith of her master
- ... SIMPLY COULD NOT GET THIS ONE ON THE FIRST TRY.

Jesus, who is a reflection, or LOGOS of God the Father, demonstrates the tender mercy God gives by this act...

NOTICE:

1. It is the **faith** of this man's friends that brought him to Jesus feet.
2. Jesus gives this man a *iiiiiiiiiiiiiiiny* taste of His power, by taking him from totally blind to ACTUALLY SEEING, albeit distorted shadows, but SEEING, none-the-less.
3. NOW this man has a foundation of **faith** to believe that Jesus CAN heal him... but while this man, due to being overcome with this new sensation, or believing that this is enough for him, or lacking enough faith or courage to ask anything more... Jesus heals this man completely!

Christ showed in what method those commonly are healed by his grace, who by nature are spiritually blind.

- At first, their knowledge is confused; but, like the light of the morning, it shines more and more to the perfect day,
- ... and then they see all things clearly.

This is not so far removed from you and I, in our Christian walk today.

### **1 Corinthians 13**

8, Charity never faileth: but whether there be **prophecies**, they shall fail; whether there be **tongues**, they shall cease; whether there be **knowledge**, it shall vanish away.

9, For we know **in part**, and we prophesy **in part**.

10, But when **that which is perfect** (complete) **is come**, (\*Scripture) then that which is in part shall be done away.

11, When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12, For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13, And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

There is a graduation point. A point where things begin to 'click' in the heart. The Holy Spirit can begin to grab truths from both the Old and New Testaments and tie them together.

**QUOTE:** If Understanding is the destination, sanctification must be the journey.

So here's the thing... Is it possible for our faith to do others good? Can you have faith on behalf of someone else?!

There is another story in the Bible of a man who did not, himself, come to Jesus.

## **Mark 2**

1 And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

2 And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.

3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, **which was borne of four.**

4 And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.

5 When Jesus saw **their faith**, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

8 And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?

9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?

10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (*he saith to the sick of the palsy,*)

11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

The passage is not clear that this man, popularly painted as being carried, not of his own volition, to the awaiting healing hands of the Savior, had faith... as the article, "Jesus saw THEIR faith", it could well point to the Faith of the Five.

*(And, no, I don't think Barabbas was one of the four. :-P :-P)*

Jesus did something unique here, as well... He forgave the sins of the sick for the Faith of the Five, but HEALED the lame for the benefit of the lack of faith of the few scribes!

How Merciful and Tender is our Christ who prays for the benefit of those who are beholden in unbelief?!

### **CLOSING:**

The happiest people I know are those who want exactly what they already have. Contentment cannot be purchased. Contentment can only be found in Christ.